provision for 'Travelling allowance' under 'Legislative Council' on account of enhanced rates, the provision for the Special Finance Committee and the lump provisions for revision of the offices of the Sarvadhikarikar and the Special Palace Officer.

Accounts and Finance.—Under 'Accounts and Finance', besides the provision for the temporary staff entertained in the course of the year for the better efficiency of Local Audit and for meeting the increased work in the office, provision is also made for the training of a Superintendent in the Accountant-General's Office. Rapid changes are taking place in the system of accounts, and the Government deem it extremely desirable that their Account Office should occasionally send a few of the senior officers of the department for gaining practical experience of the up-to-date account systems. I am sure that on this policy of the Government for ensuring greater efficiency of their Account Department, there cannot be two opinions. This course, as it seems to me, is all the more necessary, as the House has rightly set its face against the system of Test Audit at the hands of outside experts which was made clear during the last budget session.

Education.—The growth of expenditure on 'Education' has already been adverted to in my last budget speech. Reviewing the increase of expenditure under 'Education' from Rs. 4·93 lakhs in 1090 to Rs. 9·89 lakhs in 1099, I observed that "at this rate of growth it will be impossible to finance Education a few years later, unless adequate steps are taken to provide permanent sources of revenue for meeting the expenditure." The actuals of the subsequent year only tend to confirm my view. From Rs. 9·89 lakhs in 1099 it rose to Rs. 11·17 lakhs in 1100, and according to the revised estimate of the current year it is expected to come to Rs. 11·95 lakhs, while the provision for the next year is fixed at Rs. 12·68 lakhs. Though mindful of the risk of being labelled a reactionary and a retrograde, I am once more constrained to remark that we have reached the stage of maximum expenditure in the Education Department which now consumes nearly 1/5 of the aggregate revenues of the State, not to speak of the expenditure for school buildings which is met from our Public Works Department. The spread of Education is no doubt an obligation on Government; but a sense of proportion has to be preserved, and nobody in this House, I believe, would advocate further expansion without great risk to our finances. At any rate without a fresh addition to our revenue, it may not be possible to sustain this burden on our revenues much longer. Our only hope lies in the levy of an educational cess, and I think the Special Finance Committee to whom the question has been

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

referred will consider the problem in all its aspects and make suitable recommendations.

As the details of the variations of the several items have been explained in the memorandum, I do not wish to detain the House by further elaboration.

Medical Department.—I now come to the Medical Department. We have not been unmindful of the necessity of this department in its various activities, and the provision we have made for this department for 1102 exceeds the anticipated expenditure for the current year by Rs. 6,100. A sum of Rs. 68,000 has been provided for 1102 towards cost of medicines, instruments, etc., as against the revised estimate of Rs. 66,500 while the provision under 'Dietary charges' has been fixed at Rs. 30,000, following the revised estimate.

Sanitation and Conservancy.—As against the revised estimate of Rs. 19,100, a provision of Rs. 12,000 only is made for Town improvement works in the coming year. Similarly, the contribution to the Municipal Councils has been reduced from Rs. 20,943 to Rs. 11,848 which is distributed as follows.—

Trichur Rs. 7,504
Chittur-Tattamangalam Rs. 4,344.

The principle followed in fixing these contributions is that they should cover the deficits in the Municipal budgets for the year.

The usual provision of Rs. 10,000 for improvement of water supply has been transferred to the Panchayat Department, as the Government consider that these local bodies would be a more proper agency for the execution of such works. It cannot but be admitted, as I observed last year, that the Sanitation Department has been relieved of many of its original functions as a result of the advent and growth of the Panchayats. During recent years the Panchayats have considerably extended the scope of their activities, and they have taken the control of sanitation also in several places. It has been the practice to provide different amounts in the Panchayat and Sanitation budgets for Conservancy works in rural areas with the result that there are now two different and independent agencies acting in contiguous areas and attending to similar duties. As already remarked, the Panchayat appears to the Government to be the better agency, and hence the transfer of the provision to the Panchayat budget. The question of the Sanitary staff, as affected by the transfer, is under the consideration of the Government.

Public Works.—Under 'Public Works' a provision of Rs. 11,45,300 is made, of which Rs. 2,00,000 is for 'Mechanical and

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly